period of time (RPT) for implementing the above rulings and recommendations. Accordingly, existing QRs on 1429 tariff lines at eight digit level maintained on balance of payments grounds are to be removed by 1st April, 2001.

(b) Following adoption of the Appellate Body and Panel Reports by the DSB on 22nd September, 1999 a reasonable period of time had to be determined for India to implement the rulings and recommendations of the DSB. The RPT can be determined either through arbitration or through bilateral agreement between parties to the dispute. The bilateral agreement has to be reached within 45 days of date of adoption, unless both sides agree to an extension of time period. India and the USA held bilateral discussions during the said period of 45 days but could not arrive at an understanding. Consequently, both sides moved the WTO for extension of this time period a number of times, which was granted. Finally, after prolonged discussions India and the USA reached an agreement on this issue, which was jointly notified, to the WTO on 28th December, 1999.

(c) Since, QRs on these items are still to be lifted, exact impact of removal of QRs on India's economic security cannot be quantified. However, the removal of QRs on 1285 items which has been effected since 1997, did not have any serious implications.

(d) No, Sir, as has been explained in answer to (b) above.

Simplification of Advance Licences

1067. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to make issue of advance lincences easier, the Commerce Ministry has notified standard input output norms for 32 items from the chemical engineering and textile sector;

(b) whether 40 amendments have been made to execute and modify existing input-output norms in consideration of the demands of the export community; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Duty Exemption Scheme under the Export and Import Policy allows import of Duty Free inputs for export production on the basis of

the Standard Input Output Norms (SION) published by the Director General of Foreign Trade in the Handbook of Procedures (Vol .2). The Standard Input Output Norms facilitate issue of Duty Free Licences under the Duty Exemption Scheme speedily and on uniform basis as per the financial limits prescribed under the Export and Import Policy. As on 31.3.99 there were 4826 such notified norms belonging to different product groups.

Owing to the rapid scientific and technological developments and changing international trade scenario, the exercise of standardisation of Input Output Norms is a continuous and on going process. During the current licensing year of 1999-2000 (upto the period of 31.1.2000), six more Public Notices have been issued notifying 298 fresh Standard Input Output Norms. Vide Public Notice No. 50 (RE-99/1997-2002 dated 2.2.2000, some more Standard Input Output Norms have been fixed besides amending a few of the existing norms.

The details of new Input output Norms fixed and the amendments to the existing norms are given in the Annexures 'A', 'B', C' and 'D' to the Public Notice No. 50(RE-99)/1997-2002 dated 2.2.2000, issued by the Ministry of Commerce, which has been notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-I, Section I, copies of which are also available in the Parliament Library for reference.

Sectorwise break-up of new Norms added vide aforementioned Public Notice and amendments to the existing norms are as under:-

		New Norms	Amendments
1.	Chemicals	17	22
2.	Engineering	14	16
3.	Textile	01	01
4.	Plastic	—	01
	Total	32	40

Rate of Industrial Production

†1068. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various institutions have estimated that the rate of industrial production would be six per cent in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the estimate of Government regarding growth rate of industrial

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.